



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Fletcher et al. Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. : 09/518,627 Examiner : Unknown
Filed : March 3, 2000
Title : ADAPTABLE COIN MECHANISM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION OF PAUL R. FLETCHER UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.608(b)

1. I am an inventor with respect to U.S Patent Application identified above ("the Fletcher et al. application"), which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/172,981, filed October 14, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/710,787, filed September 20, 1996.
2. I am currently an employee of Mars Electronics International (MEI), a subsidiary of Mars, Incorporated, the assignee of the applications identified above.
3. While an employee of MEI, I attended the 35th NAMA Western Convention and Trade Show held in Anaheim, California from April 11-13, 1996 ("the NAMA show") as a representative of MEI. Exhibit E attached to this declaration is a true and correct copy of pages from my U.K. passport indicating my arrival in the U.S. on April 9, 1996 to attend the NAMA show. An arrow pointing to the date stamped by the U.S. immigration has been added.
4. At the time of the NAMA show, my title at MEI was Project Manager.
5. Exhibit B attached to this declaration is a true and correct copy of MEI literature entitled "MARS Coin Changer Series 4000," dated March 1996, that was made publicly available at the NAMA show.
6. At the time of the NAMA show, the series 4000 coin changers included Micromech VN 4000 and the VN 4010 coin changers.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit

Signature

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

April 24, 2000

Dale Maher

Dale Maher

7. VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers were publicly displayed and operated at the NAMA show.
8. The VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show were coin mechanisms for installation in a vending machine, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 9, lines 16-17.
9. The VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show included four coin tubes each of which was arranged to store a stack of coins of a respective denomination, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 12, lines 20-24.
10. Some of the VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show included coin tubes arranged to hold U.S. nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar coins, respectively, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 12, lines 25-27.
11. The VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show included a dispenser operable to dispense coins from the coin tubes, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 12, lines 29-31.
12. The VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show included a microprocessor, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 9, line 25.
13. The processor in each of the VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show was coupled to the dispenser and was capable of connection to a controller configured to operate in a three coin tube environment. Each processor was capable of connection to a vending machine controller that determines an amount of money to be dispensed and that has three dispense lines, corresponding to nickels, dimes and quarters, respectively, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 10, lines 15-19, page 17, lines 15-19, at page 10, line 25 to page 11, line 3 and in FIG. 1.
14. When installed in a vending machine, each processor in the VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers at the NAMA show was operable to recognize signals received from the vending machine controller dispense lines as corresponding to predetermined values and to accumulate a value corresponding to the received signals, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 17, lines 21-22, 30-32 and at page 19, lines 9-11, 16-17 and 27-28. The processors in the VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers were operable to cause the dispensing of at least one coin from the coin tubes based on the accumulated value in response to the received dispense signals, as disclosed in the Fletcher et al. application at page 18, lines 14-16 and page 19, lines 5-31.
15. VN 4000 and VN 4010 coin changers were installed in vending machines operated at the NAMA show.
16. The information in the foregoing paragraphs is based on my own knowledge.

Applicant : Fletcher et al.
Serial No. : 09/518,627
Filed : March 3, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 07703-245004

17. I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and

that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Dated: 18th April 00



Paul R. Fletcher

30011056.doc